

Everything You Need to Know About Watches

This guide is intended to educate individuals about anything related to watches. This includes watch components, type of movements, materials, complications, and more. Unfortunately, we will not be discussing digital watches as they are not part of our expertise.

Components of a watch

Let's begin with the components of a watch for those who are unfamiliar with the "technical" names of a watch's parts. Keep in mind that these words can describe any watch, whether it's a [Rolex watch](#), Cartier, Patek Philippe, whatever!



Figure 1 - [Rolex Submariner](#) Diagram

A (band) – Simply, this is the watch's band and it goes around the wrist. Other words used include "bracelet" or "strap" if it is leather. In this particular picture, this Rolex Submariner has an Oyster band.

B (lug) – The lug is the part of the watch that holds the band secure into place. Rolex watches have an engraved serial number and model number between the lugs when the band is removed.

Specifically, at the 12 o' clock position on the case is where you will find model number. The serial number is under the 6 o' clock position.

C (dial) – The dial is the “face” of the watch under the hands. This particular Rolex has a black dial. Dials can consist of a variety of colors and even materials. It is not uncommon to see mother of pearl dials or meteorite dials. These are usually worth more as they are comprised of a rarer material.

D (end piece) – This is the end piece of the band. You can measure this distance to determine the size of the band needed for the watch. If a band is 20 mm, this is the distance you would need to measure to determine if it will fit.

E (bezel) - Originally, bezels were designed to protect the crystal of the watch and to keep it in place. Today they serve more functional purposes, depending on the type of watch. Certain diving watches contain bezels that could help gauge water pressure. Bezels can also be interchangeable.

F (crystal) – This arrow is not to be confused with the dial. The crystal is the outer transparent cover of the watch. Rolex watches are typically manufactured with sapphire crystals, which are very durable and scratch resistance. Older watches tend to have an acrylic crystal, which is a type of hardened plastic. To determine the between a sapphire and acrylic crystal, hold the crystal up to your cheek. If it's noticeably colder, it's sapphire.

G (crown) – This is the watch's crown and is used to set the watch. The date and time functions are set through the crown.

H (cyclops) – This is the magnifying date feature.

These are the most basic terms used to describe a watch. There are many more features that a watch can possess which are not mentioned here. For example, more complicated wristwatches, most notably [Patek Philippe watches](#), can have moon phase functions, dual time functions, chronograph complications, etc. These extra features are known as “complications”.

Watches can also vary in material. Watches can made of gold (yellow, rose, or pink), platinum, silver, or stainless steel. Gold and platinum watches fetch the most value simply because of the expensive material used to make them. A watch can have a two tone band, meaning it is made up of stainless steel and gold. Rolex is known for using a higher quality stainless steel material for their watches, which makes them last longer and resist damages. Some watches are described as “gold tone.” Be careful when buying a gold tone watch. These types of watches are not gold but are simply some kind of metal coated with gold through a procedure. They are worth far less than watches that are stainless steel, gold, silver, or platinum.

Watch Movements

At the very basic level there are two types of movements: mechanical and quartz.

Quartz – A quartz movement runs on a battery. These are the type of watches that you don't need to wind or shake on your wrist to keep them moving. A wristwatch with a quartz movement will have its hands "tick" across the dial, as opposed to sweep. To an ordinary watch wearer, a quartz movement does everything its supposed to. It keeps the watch running precisely even when it's not being worn. However, quartz movements aren't mechanically as complicated as mechanical movements, so they are more inexpensive to make. Watch enthusiasts pay higher values for mechanical watches because of the craftsmanship required to produce a quality mechanical movement.

Mechanical – Mechanical movements can be broken down into two subcategories: automatic and manual. Mechanical movements are discerned by the sweeping motion of the watch's hands. Automatic movements actually work much in the same way as manual movements, except they contain a rotor piece. The rotor moves whenever the wrist moves. This is why once you set an automatic watch, as long as you wear it every day, it will continue to run. However, if you set the watch down for too long, you will have to reset it again. A watch with a power reserve complication will show how much time remains before it is needed to reset the watch. It is important to keep an automatic watch running as much as possible because dust and debris can collect within the internal mechanism of the watch. This can break the mechanism and require a [watch repair](#) or service. Rolex is known for using quality automatic movements within its watches.

The second type of mechanical movement is the manual kind. In a manual movement, the wearer must turn the crown to several types to wind the mainspring, which runs on potential energy. As the potential energy is converted to kinetic energy, the watch runs until it stops again, requiring the wearer to wind it again.

We hope that we at Raymond Lee Jewelers have helped educate you with some basics about watches. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any further questions. Our friendly staff are always ready to assist you. Contact us via email at info@raymondleejewelers.net or by phone at 561-750-7808. Most importantly, don't forget to browse our wonderful collection of luxury watches!